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Rep. John Gregg, Chairman
Sen. Robert Garton, Vice-Chairman
Sen. Richard Young
Sen. Harold Wheeler
Sen. Joseph Harrison
Sen. Patricia Miller
Sen. Thomas Wyss
Sen. James Lewis
Sen. Earline Rogers
Rep. Paul Mannweiler
Rep. Mark Kruzan
Rep. Dale Grubb
Rep. William Cochran
Rep. Charlie Brown
Rep. Jeffrey Linder
Rep. Richard Mangus



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: August 4, 1998
Meeting Time: 10:30 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St.,
Room 404
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 3

Members Present: Rep. John Gregg, Chairman; Sen. Robert Garton, Vice-Chairman; Sen. Richard Young; Sen. Joseph Harrison; Sen. Patricia Miller; Sen. Thomas Wyss; Sen. Earline Rogers; Rep. Paul Mannweiler; Rep. Mark Kruzan; Rep. Dale Grubb; Rep. William Cochran; Rep. Charlie Brown; Rep. Richard Mangus.

Members Absent: Sen. Harold Wheeler; Sen. James Lewis; Rep. Jeffrey Linder.

The Chairman, Representative Gregg, called the meeting to order, requested a roll call, declared a quorum present to transact business, and opened the meeting.

RESOLUTION HONORING REPRESENTATIVE PHILIP WARNER

A resolution honoring the life and public service of former Representative Phil Warner was requested by Representative Mannweiler at the Council's June meeting. LCR 98-12 was read and unanimously adopted by consent. The Chairman asked for a moment of silence as each member of the Council remembered their friend Phil Warner.

At Representative Mannweiler's request, the Council directed the Executive Director of the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) to have copies of the

resolution framed for presentment to Mrs. Susie Warner and her three children.

APPROVAL OF NCSL ANNUAL DUES

Proposed LCR 98-9 would direct the LSA to pay \$127,761 from funds appropriated for Indiana's annual dues for the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). After a brief discussion concerning the formula used to determine the amount of dues payable by each state legislature, LCR 98-9 was adopted by consent.

DISCUSSION OF PRINTING OF LEGISLATIVE BILLS

The Chairman announced that the agenda item concerning the printing of legislative bills would be postponed until the September meeting of the Council.

A discussion followed concerning various aspects of Senator Harrison's question as to whether to renew the Graphics contract pursuant to an offer letter that had been received from the vendor in May. This offer (to extend the original three year contract by one year) must be acted upon by October 31, 1998. A discussion was held concerning the legal relationship between the vendor and the Council, including the impact of the vendor's taking of certain action in anticipation of the Council's extension of the printing contract.

Senator Garton said that he did not see any legal obligation, but felt that at this time the Senate staff has some concerns that should be discussed. He also stated that while he anticipates the eventual transition to in-house composition, it would be his preference to make the change during a short session of the General Assembly.

The Chairman announced that this matter would be assigned to the Data Processing Subcommittee to permit further discussion prior to the next Council meeting.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATERIALS TO LEGISLATORS

The Chairman recognized Representative Phyllis Pond to explain her concern with what she feels is an excessive amount of mail received by members of the General Assembly. Representative Pond showed the Council a stack of reports and other mailings that she had received from state agencies and other entities during the previous month. She suggested an expansion of the LSA program to receive one copy of mailings (primarily statutorily mandated annual reports) from state agencies. The LSA periodically sends notice to legislators of the titles of the documents that have been received and that will be copied by the LSA on request by individual members.

Representative Pond suggested that this program might be expanded to include a larger array of documents presently sent to all legislators by state agencies. Another idea, according to Representative Pond, would be to require state agencies to send only a short, monthly abstract of mailings to all legislators. The full document would be filed at the LSA and members could request copies as is presently done with a narrow set of documents.

In reply to a question from the Chairman, Mr. Sachtleben said that the LSA gets very few requests for the documents sent in by a few state agencies. He also noted that the drafting rules at the LSA had been changed to discourage mandatory reports to all 150 members. Instead LSA attorneys include such “every member” reports in bills only if specifically requested to do so by the author of a proposed bill or amendment.

In reply to a question from Representative Charlie Brown, Representative Pond said that her intent was to cut down on legislator mail and reduce postage and printing costs.

The Chairman appointed Representatives Brown (chair) and Mangus, and Senators Rogers and Wyss to a subcommittee to study the issues raised by Representative Pond. Senator Young asked that the subcommittee specifically find out how many state agencies are presently using Access Indiana for the publication of documents.

UPDATE ON THE BLOCK BOUNDARY SUGGESTION PROGRAM (BBSP)

In response to the Chairman’s request, Mr. Sachtleben provided a short review of the history of the BBSP to date. He stated that the Council had decided to voluntarily participate in both phases (Phase I:BBSP; Phase II: Voting Districts) of the Census Bureau’s 2000 Redistricting Program and had contracted with Election Data Services (EDS) of Washington, D.C. to provide geographic information system (GIS) services from 1997 through the end of Phase II.

Mr. Sachtleben introduced Ms. Maureen Bard and Mr. Mark Stratton, co-managers of the LSA’s BBSP office. Ms. Bard and Mr. Stratton then gave a presentation that included full color examples of the types of problems they work on, and the overall strategy for meeting the deadlines established by the Census Bureau.

In reply to a question from Senator Miller, Ms. Bard explained that she and Mr. Stratton had a great deal of contact with local election officials under the BBSP and would continue to have contact through Phase II. Senator Miller stressed the importance of involving local officials in order to maximize understanding and cooperation.

In reply to a question from Senator Garton, Senator Miller discussed the present and former state law governing the maximum number of persons included in a precinct. She noted that under prior law the size had been limited, but that in recent years this had been amended.

Senator Garton urged Ms. Bard and Mr. Stratton to continue to encourage the Census Bureau to provide Indiana its 2000 population figures as soon as possible due to our legislative session calendar. Mr. Sachtleben noted that the Census Bureau had already missed some of their original deadlines, and that even if all goes as planned Indiana's new population counts may not be available until March 2001. He noted that the Census Bureau has been made aware of Indiana's special need to have data earlier than some other states.

OTHER BUSINESS

Representative Brown expressed his discomfort with smoking that occurs in the State House near the legislative chambers and elsewhere when smoking is prohibited in other state buildings and the rest of the State House. He stated that he believes this situation makes it appear that the Legislature is above some of the laws that it has passed. Senator Garton noted that the Department of Administration had traditionally deferred to the Legislature in recognition of the fact that this is a separate branch of government.

The Chairman asked that a report be made as to the laws regulating smoking in the State House, particularly in areas assigned to the General Assembly.

Representative Kruzan informed the Council of the severe illness of Mr. Barry Brummer, an LSA attorney, and requested that members of the Council remember Barry in their prayers and thoughts as he battles his disease.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:50 AM.